

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 remain in this application. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended to better bring out the features of Applicant's invention. In regard to the comments about the IDS submitted April 9, 2004, Applicants submit that a misspelling of the inventor's name is insufficient reason not to consider a reference, particularly one where a copy has been submitted to the Office. However, the issue is moot since the reference has been cited by the Examiner and is thus of record in this application.

These amendments make clear that, during a first period, the negative voltage on the holder is controlled to cause charging of the surface of the substrate. This is beneficial to provide a charge to attract electrons in contact holes, for example. The negative voltage is then subsequently changed to a value that results in an efficiency of close to 1 during which time observation of the bottom of a contact hole becomes possible.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 as anticipated by Richardson et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. As now brought out in claims 1 and 3, the accelerating voltage is changed by changing the negative voltage applied to the holder to control the electric field between the object lens and the substrate. The reference does not teach or suggest this feature. All that is changed in the reference is an area being irradiated.

Furthermore, although efficiency (emission coefficient) is mentioned, there is no teaching of controlling it to be close to 1, let alone doing so by controlling a negative voltage applied to the holder after first controlling that voltage to cause a build up of positive charge on the substrate. Thus, Applicants submit that claims 1 and 3 are not anticipated by Richardson et al. and along with claim 2 should be allowed.

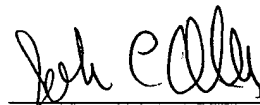
In view of the above, this application is now in condition for allowance, prompt notice of which is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 220-4200 to discuss any information concerning this application.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 27, 2004



John C. Altmiller
Registration No. 25,951

JCA/lmq

KENYON & KENYON
1500 K Street, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Tel.: (202) 220-4200
Fax.: (202) 220-4201